GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:918
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2004
GLOBALISATION OF SMALL AND MARGINAL FARMERS AND FARM WORKERS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain aspects of globalisation are subjecting small and marginal farmers and farm workers in India to many hardships;

(b) if so, whether the indebtedness among farmers is on the increase in the changed circumstances of globalisation; and

(c) if so, the steps, the Government propose to take to safeguard the interest of the farming community?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): As may be seen from the table given below, the quantum of agricultural imports compared to the gross domestic product from the agriculture sector in India continues to very small. Thus, the hardships, if any, suffered by small and marginal farmers and farm workers in India cannot be attributed to the process of globalisation.

YEAR	GDP AGRICULTURE AT CURRENT PRICES (Rs. in Crores)	AGRICULTURE IMPORTS (Rs.in Crores)	PERCENTAGE OF IMPORTS TO GDP
1993-94	221834	2327.33	1.04
1994-95	255193	5937.21	2.32
1995-96	277846	5890.10	2.11
1996-97	334030	6612.60	1.97
1997-98	353490	8784.19	2.48
1998-99	406498	14566.48	3.58
1999-00	422392	16066.73	3.80
2000-01	423522	12086.23	2.85
2001-02	473004	16256.61	3.43
2002-03	456044	17608.83	3.86

Source :- Central Statistical Organisation, New Delhi; Agricultural Statistics at a glance 2004

On 18th June, 2004, the Government has announced a new Agriculture Credit Policy, to improve the flow of credit to the agriculture sector and also to provide debt relief to farmers.